

[18th December 1922]

(4) what is the quantity now in stock ;
 (5) what is its present rate ;
 (6) what is the value of the soda ash now in stock ; and
 (7) what are the Government going to do with it ?

A.—(1) 173 tons.

(2) The details are furnished below :—

When purchased.	Quantity.			Cost.		
	Tons.	Cwt.	Lb.	Rs.	A.	P.
In stock in 1917 ..	4	15	84	662	10	10
Purchased in 1917 in Tanur	30	0	5,442	2	0
Purchased in 1918 in Calicut	15	0	2,764	5	6
Purchased in 1918 in Calicut	75	0	14,612	9	3
Purchased in 1918 in Calicut	83	4	16,483	6	3

(3) 207 tons.

(4) 167 tons.

(5) Rupees 185 ex godown Madras in cwt. bags.

(6) The book value is Rs. 30,898-5-10.

(7) The soda ash is being sold as opportunities offer.

Repeal of the Madras Planters' Labour Act.

527 Q.—Mr. A. D. M. BAVOTTI SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the total number of coolies and maistris who have been sentenced to imprisonment under the Madras Planters' Labour Act from the first year of its operation to the last year ;

(b) what is the approximate cost to the Government of maintaining these prisoners in jail during the said period ;

(c) what are the chief offences for which these men were sent to jail ;

(d) whether it is the intention of the Government to repeal the said Act in the near future ;

(e) whether the Government consulted the United Planters' Association or other planters on the question of repealing the Act or amending it ; and

(f) if so, when was it and what was the reply received ?

A.—(a) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to the annual reports on the working of the Act which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

(b) There is no separate account to show the cost on these prisoners only.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

(e) Yes.

(f) During the years 1920 and 1921.

The Government are unable at present to publish the papers.